

Empowering food safety through analytical knowledge



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Technical excellence in marine biotoxins

EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR MONITORING OF MARINE BIOTOXINS



ACTIVITIES



Quality and Consistency: A Common Goal for EU Laboratories

To guarantee consistent and reliable testing of marine biotoxins across the European Union, the EURLMB plays a central role through the following activities:

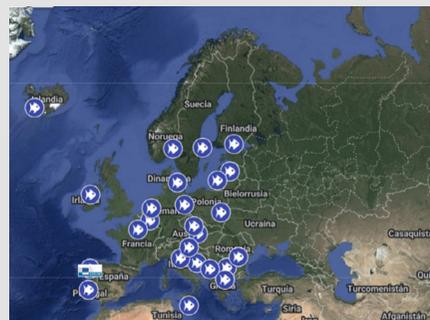
Development and validation of analytical methods specific to marine biotoxins.

Distribution of methods to National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and coordination of proficiency testing schemes to assess analytical performance.

Technical training for staff from NRLs and official laboratories, focused on marine biotoxin detection and quality assurance.

Scientific and technical support to the European Commission in laboratory analysis, contributing to risk assessment and risk management.

Collaboration with competent laboratories in third countries, promoting international harmonization in marine biotoxin monitoring.



Annual workshop

The annual workshop serves as a key meeting point where representatives of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL), and the European Commission come together to strengthen the network and exchange information. Topics regularly addressed include updates on legislation, the latest developments in analytical methodologies, and new proficiency testing schemes. The future work programme is developed collaboratively, based on consultations with the European Commission and input from NRL representatives, ensuring alignment with emerging priorities.

Proficiency tests

The EURLMB conducts proficiency testing schemes for NRLs in order to assess the analytical performance of methods, instrumentation, and staff. These exercises support method validation, ensure compliance with ISO/IEC 17025, and promote harmonization across the EU reference network.



Training courses

The EURLMB offers training programmes aimed at strengthening the technical competence of professionals from National Reference Laboratories and official laboratories in third countries, with a focus on marine biotoxin analysis and quality assurance within the EU regulatory framework. Training activities are delivered on-site at the EURLMB, online, or through staff deployment, particularly in the context of missions to third countries. Sessions are conducted by expert personnel and promote technical harmonization and capacity building at the international level.

Working groups

The EURL coordinates expert working groups composed of specialists from NRLs and other relevant institutions. These groups address specific technical and scientific topics, such as method development, validation protocols, data interpretation, and emerging analytical challenges. Their collaborative work contributes to the continuous improvement of laboratory practices, supports harmonization across the EU network, and informs the strategic direction of the EURL's activities.

